

House Republican Press Release

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Rep. Kalinowski Pushes for Revamping State Siting Council



State Rep. Raymond C. Kalinowski, R-100th, Middletown, Middlefield, Durham, has testified in support of legislation that would reconfigure the Connecticut Siting Council to include local members when deciding on the placement of high voltage power lines.

He appeared before the legislature's Energy and Technology committee March 10 in support of House Bill 6852, An Act Concerning Energy Transmission. The legislation would add ad hoc members to the Connecticut Siting Council from affected communities when the council considers an application for a proposed transmission line with a capacity of sixty-nine kilovolts or more.

Rep. Kalinowski said this issue is important, especially in cases of the proposed 345-kilovolt transmission line between Middletown and Norwalk.

In his testimony, Rep. Kalinowski said, "That hearing process was very expensive. The towns affected depleted their legal budgets in presenting their positions on declining property values, degradation of the environment and, most importantly, the potential negative impact on public health."

He added, "The municipalities were no match for the financial resources of the utility companies who challenged all claims and extended the proceedings every step of the way."

Rep. Kalinowski testified, "Raised Bill 6852 will offer a more fair and equitable representation on the council. Including municipal members on a case-by-case basis will improve the evaluative and decision-making process, lessen the financial burdens involved and balance competing interests."

He urged the committee to act favorably on the proposed legislation.

Rep. Kalinowski serves the 100th Assembly District of Middletown, Middlefield and Durham in the state House of Representatives.